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PROGRESS OF INTEMPERANCE,

IN

A SERIES OF SIX ENGRAVINGS FROM THE ORIGINAL PAINTINGS

BY E. V. RIPPINGILLE, ESQ.,

WITH

POETICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

BY J. DIX, ESQ.

(AUTHOR OF "THE LIFE OF CHATTERTON.")

THE one first step that leads astray
Is ever on a flowery way;
And well the painter's art can show
Crime's growth, and its reward of woe.
A simple picture may prevail
Where stern, cold moralists would fail;
And some, perchance, reclaimed from ill,
May bless *thy* genius, RIPPINGILLE!

BRISTOL: PUBLISHED BY PHILP AND EVANS, CLARE-STREET.
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PHILP AND EVANS, PRINTERS, BRISTOL.

THE INVITATION TO DRINK.

PROGRESS OF INTEMPERANCE Plate I

PICTURE No. I.

THE INVITATION TO DRINK.

* * * * *

One glass at parting! and but one,
  Before you go your homeward way;—
Old friends are here:—the deed is done,
  And oft-made resolutions shaken;
One glass—*another*—Reuben Gray
  The first, sure downward step has taken.

PICTURE No. II.

SICKNESS AND REPENTANCE.

The sun is high o'er moor and hill;
  Glad children shout in merry play,
  Tasting the sweets which nature yields;
But in his beehive chair is still
  One, who was yestermorn as gay:
A throbbing brain, and aching limbs,
  Repentingly feels Reuben Gray!
Oh! could he but recall the past!
But, no—'tis done—the die is cast:—
Stern Reason has resum'd her place,
  And whilst his children round him play,
He looks into each simless face,
  Then turns as 'twere in shame away.
And near him is there one, whose eye
Is dim with unshed agony!
Who *blames not*, but in spirit feels
The anxious woe no word reveals.

SICKNESS AND REPENTANCE

PROGRESS OF INTEMPERANCE Plate II

THE RELAPSE.

PROGRESS of INTEMPERANCE. Plate II.

PICTURE No. III.

THE RELAPSE.

'Tis midnight!—in a gaudy room,
Where Grief and Guilt alike repair,
He sits, far from his cottage home;
No longer needing art or snare
To lure, he *loves* to linger there!
And plunder'd duped, half ruin'd, still
He journeys on the road to ill.

PICTURE No. IV.

THE RUINED FAMILY.

Forth from their ruin'd home they go
  O'er the bleak moor. Oh! mournful sight!
The happy child, that used to clasp
  Her father's knees with wild delight,
Follows, and with no loving eye
Upon her bent; but moodily
The drunkard father hurries on—
His home, its joys, all, all are gone!
But *one* to him is faithful still;
She shar'd his joy, now shares his ill,
And struggles, with a vain endeavour,
  To hide the grief she feels at parting:
  Hot tear drops from her eyelids starting,
She leaves the home so lov'd for ever!
The last, last look is giv'n, and on
The wretched, reckless man is gone;
But by the garden bound there lingers
His youngest born, whose tiny fingers
  Pluck a *last* flower. How often she
Had gather'd daisies there before!
  But what has been no more shall be,
The sweet, free dream of childhood's o'er.

THE RUINED FAMILY.

PROGRESS OF INTEMPERANCE Plate IV

THE EXPECTING WIFE.

"PROGRESS OF INTEMPERANCE" PLATE V.

Picture No. V.

THE EXPECTING WIFE.

Within a chamber lone and dim,
A pale, wan woman waits in vain,
Through the long anxious hours, for him
Away. In want and wasting pain
The child upon her knee is pining:
Its winning smiles all scared away,
She almost prays the morrow's ray
May on its calm, cold clay be shining.
Poor watcher! he comes not. She dreams,
Perhaps, of her old home; and now,
Upstarting with a rigid brow,
Her babe hugs closer to her breast;
That *dying* child, yet lov'd the best.

PICTURE No. VI.

THE ROBBER.

His gentle child, whose golden hair
Wav'd o'er its forehead pure and fair,
Is number'd with the lost. No more
For him the pure and sweet caress
Of childhood hath the power to bless;
Yet shows he in his wretchedness
A father's love and late distress.
The mournful scene draws near its close—
Dark catalogue of crime and woes!—
And Reuben Gray, grown desperate now,
Waits, with a dark and savage brow
(Temptation *courted*, not withstood),
For plunder—it may be for blood!

* * * * *

All's lost! Joy, hope, for ever gone;
Betray'd by those who lur'd him on,
Remorsefully he scans the past,
And loads with curses deep the time;
Whilst Vengeance on the heels of crime
Slow follows, but o'ertakes at last!

THE ROBBER.

PROGRESS of INTEMPERANCE Plate VI

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